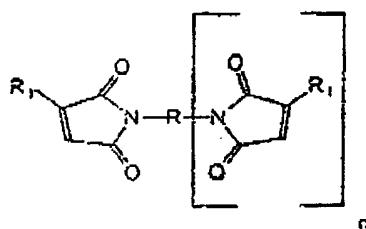


Claim 1 (currently amended) A composition consisting essentially of crosslinkable components useful for providing surface tack free thermoset surface cures of polymers by curing with free radical initiators organic peroxides in the presence of air, the components comprising:

a) At least one compound (A) selected from the group consisting of silicone elastomers and a compound having the formula (I):

(I)



Wherein n is 1, or 2 and R¹ is divalent, or trivalent and is selected from the group consisting of cyclic aliphatic groups having from about 2 to 16 carbon atoms, cyclic aliphatic groups having from about 5 to 20 carbon atoms, aromatic groups having from about 6 to 18 carbon atoms and alkyl aromatic groups having from about 7 to 24 carbon atoms, and wherein the divalent, or trivalent groups may contain one or more heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, replacing a carbon atom, or carbon atoms and each R¹ is identical and is hydrogen or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms; and

(b) At least one compound (B) selected from the group consisting of p-phenylenediamine based antioxidants and sulfur containing organic compounds selected from the group consisting of sulfur containing organic compounds capable of accelerating sulfur vulcanization of a polymer capable of being crosslinked by sulfur, polysulfide polymers and mixtures of said sulfur containing compounds; and

(c) A free radical initiator (C) selected from the group consisting of organic peroxides and azo initiators.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended) A composition comprising a composition as defined in Claim 21 and a polymer curable by free radical initiators.

Claim 4 (original) A process comprising forming the composition of Claim 3 into a shaped article and then subjecting it in the presence of molecular oxygen to a temperature sufficient to initiate decomposition of the free radical initiator and thereby obtaining a cured shaped article substantially free of surface tack.

Claim 5 (currently amended) A composition formed by mixing compounds (A), and (B) and (C) as defined in claim one.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claims 8-11 (withdrawn)

Claim 12 (original) A composition as defined in claim 1 also comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of chlorinated polyethylene and chlorosulfonated polyethylene.

Claim 13 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 21 wherein the free radical initiator is selected from organic peroxides.

Claim 14 (original) A surface tack free cured polymer cured in the presence of molecular oxygen by free radicals generated by decomposition of the free radical initiator in a composition as defined in claim 3.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A process for making a surface tack free thermoset cured polymer cured by free radicals generated by decomposition of a free radical initiator contained therein in the presence of molecular oxygen which comprises compounding said polymer with a composition as defined in claim 21 and supplying sufficient heat energy to decompose the free radical initiator thus introduced into the polymer.

Claim 16 (currently amended) A process for making a curable composition capable of being cured to a tack free surface in the presence of molecular oxygen by a free radical initiator which process comprises compounding a polymer capable of being crosslinked by a free radical initiator with a composition as defined in claim 21.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 1 wherein compound (A) is selected from one or more bismaleimides and compound (B) is selected from the group consisting of dialkylthiuram tetrasulfides, diarylthiuram tetrasulfides, alkylphenol disulfides, tetraalkylthiuram monosulfides, tetraarylthiuram monosulfides and mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 21 wherein the free radical initiator is selected from dialkyl peroxides or peroxyketals.

Claim 20 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 18 additionally containing a free radical initiator wherein compound (C) is selected from dialkyl peroxides or peroxyketals.

Claim 21 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 1 wherein compound (A) is selected from one or more bismaleimides and compound (B) is selected from the group consisting of 4,4-dithiomorpholine, acyclicalkyl-2-benzothiazole sulfenamides, cyclicalkyl-2-benzothiazole sulfenamides, aryl-2-benzothiazole sulfenamides, alkylphenol disulfides and mixtures thereof.

Claim 22 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 21 additionally containing a free radical initiator wherein compound (C) is selected from dialkyl peroxides, or peroxyketals.

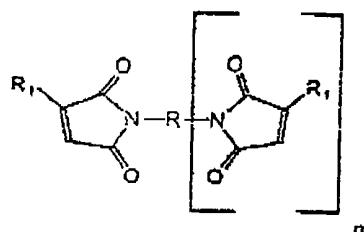
Claim 23 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 21 comprising dicumylperoxide, N,N-diphenylenebismaleimide, 4,4-dithiomorpholine, alkylphenoldisulfide and N-cyclohexyl-2-benzothiazole sulfenamide.

Claim 24 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 21 comprising dicumylperoxide, N,N-diphenylenebismaleimide, dipentamethylene thiuram tetrasulfide, alkylphenoldisulfide and tetramethylthiuram monosulfide.

Claim 25 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 21 comprising dicumylperoxide, N,N-diphenylenebismaleimide, dipentamethylenethiuram tetrasulfide, alkylphenol disulfide and N-t-butyl-benzothiazole-2-sulfenimide.

Claim 26 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 1 comprising
a) at least one compound (A) having the formula (I):

(I)



wherein n is 1, R is divalent or trivalent and is selected from the group consisting of cyclic aliphatic groups having from about 2 to 16 carbon atoms, cyclic aliphatic groups having from about 5 to 20 carbon atoms, aromatic groups having from about 6 to 18 carbon atoms and alkyl aromatic groups having from about 7 to 24 carbon atoms, and wherein the divalent or trivalent groups may contain one or more heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, replacing a carbon atom, or carbon atoms and each R¹ is identical and is hydrogen or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms; and

(b) At least one compound (B) selected from the group consisting of sulfur containing organic compounds capable of accelerating sulfur vulcanization of a polymer capable of being crosslinked by sulfur, polysulfide polymers and mixtures of said sulfur containing compounds.

which composition is formulated as a masterbatch on a carrier selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline wax, polycaprolactone, EPDM, EPM, EVA, PE and mixtures thereof.

Claim 27 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 21 formulated as a masterbatch on a carrier selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline wax, polycaprolactone, EPDM, EPM, EVA, PE and mixtures thereof.